



NEWS RELEASE

Joseph E. Kernan, Governor
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East central Indiana businesses benefit from Indiana@Work

INDIANAPOLIS, Ind. – Gov. Joe Kernan announced today that Indiana@Work continues its growth in east central Indiana, as three area businesses joined the program.

Funding through Indiana@Work will allow Muncie's **BorgWarner Inc.**, Spiceland's **Draper Inc.**, and New Castle's **Viking Industries** to profile 12 job categories and assess the skills of 485 individuals. The Indiana Department of Workforce Development has obligated \$34,476 to provide the services free of charge. Announced in January, Indiana@Work identifies and develops workforce skills, while seeking to match individuals to jobs based on skill levels.

"As our economy continues to rebound, we must position our workers and our businesses for growth," Kernan said. "Indiana@Work provides workers with the opportunity to assess their skills and receive training to upgrade them. The program also helps Hoosiers businesses streamline the hiring process and, in turn, increase productivity.

"BorgWarner, Viking and Draper are all important to the economy of east central Indiana and, with resources like Indiana@Work, we are confident that these businesses will only grow stronger."

BorgWarner Inc., the world leader in power train technology, operates manufacturing and technical facilities in 50 locations in 14 countries. Employing more than 1,300 persons people, the Muncie plant manufactures transfer cases for four-wheel drive systems. Indiana@Work will provide \$7,296 in funding for job assessments of existing employees to help determine necessary skills for future employees. Three jobs also will be profiled, including assemblers and machine and furnace operators.

"BorgWarner's success in the future will be impacted by our ability to recruit, select and hire the right candidates to produce a quality product for the highly competitive automotive market," said Lou Goss, the BorgWarner Inc.'s employment manager.

Ever since its founding in 1902, **Draper Inc.** has been a premier manufacturer of window shades for schools. Today, while the Spiceland-based company still manufactures a wide variety of window shades for schools and commercial applications, it also is a major manufacturer of projection screens and gymnasium equipment. With \$14,860 from Indiana@Work, Draper will be able to perform up to 225 assessments for potential employees and profile five positions as it positions itself for future growth.

"We are very excited about the potential benefits of the WorkKeys assessment tool for Draper. We are confident that it will help us improve our hiring process and ultimately our ability to retain qualified workers," said David Medved, Draper's director of human resources.

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A leading producer of steering columns, New Castle's **Viking Industries** is in the process of opening its new facility, which will create new jobs in Henry County. A \$12,320 award through Indiana@Work will provide assessments for up to 200 potential employees to fill 150 positions in 2005. The company also will be able to profile its operator, electrician, general maintenance and production control jobs at the facility. Under contract with Delphi Corp., the Henry County-based company will be an independent spin-off of Viking Industries, which was founded in Ohio in 1999. The company is a privately owned supplier of rubber, plastic, metal components and assemblies to the automotive industry.

"The WorkKeys testing made our initial hiring go smoothly," said Dan Franke, operations manager: "We found great candidates who were able to pick up and help us get out of the gate quickly and efficiently. My experience in opening a new plant was made easier with the help of WorkOne, Advance Indiana and the Skills Enhancement Fund. The State of Indiana has gone out of their way to make us a success."

Indiana@Work, a joint effort between DWD and the Indiana Department of Commerce, builds around Energize Indiana's four targeted sectors: advanced manufacturing, information technology, life sciences and high-tech distribution. Available through the state's WorkOne and WorkOne Express Centers, Indiana@Work has made skills assessments available to nearly 13,000 Hoosiers and companies statewide have requested more than 200 job profiles since its inception in January.

A centerpiece of the program is WorkKeys®, a comprehensive system developed by ACT® that determines and categorizes the skills necessary for a specific job. It also matches the individual's skill level to particular job requirements and serves as a foundation for training programs that close skill gaps and develop a more capable workforce.

Job profiling, the employer segment of WorkKeys®, helps businesses identify the skills and skill levels needed for workers to be successful on the job. Professional job analysts work with experienced employees to define the duties of each occupation and together, they create specific job profiles.

Through its various programs and initiatives, the Indiana Department of Workforce Development is charged with continually improving the Hoosier workforce by assisting companies to create new jobs and improve employee skills. The agency offers a variety of training and educational grants, partners with the state's 27 WorkOne Centers, administers the unemployment insurance system, provides labor market information, assists employers with preparing workers for layoffs and closures and operates the a statewide job placement service

For more information on this or other DWD programs, call 888-465-4616 or visit the web site at www.workforce.IN.gov.

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